

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
Alexandria Division**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

v.

ZACKARY ELLIS SANDERS,

Defendant.

Case No. 1:20-cr-00143
The Honorable Judge Ellis

Status Conference: May 21, 2021
Trial: July 12, 2021

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO SEAL EXHIBIT 1 TO
DEFENDANT'S STATUS UPDATE**

I. INTRODUCTION

Zackary Ellis Sanders, by counsel, moves this Honorable Court, pursuant to Local Crim. R. 49, for entry of an Order permitting Exhibit 1 to Defendant's Status Update be filed under seal. Sealing is necessary because it contains private medical information.

II. ARGUMENT

Exhibit 1 to Defendant's Status Update should be sealed because it contains confidential and medical information that the public would not, under any other circumstances, be entitled to see. It is true that judicial proceedings are generally open to the public and that there exists, while not a First Amendment right, a common law right of public access to judicial records and documents. *Media Gen. Operations, Inc. v. Buchanan*, 417 F.3d 424, 429 (4th Cir. 2005) (citing *Balt. Sun Co. v. Goetz*, 886 F.2d 60, 64-65 (4th Cir. 1989)). The presumption of the right of access can be rebutted if countervailing interests heavily outweigh the public interests in access. *Virginia Dep't of State Police v. Washington Post*, 386 F.3d 567, 575 (4th Cir. 2004). The party seeking to overcome the presumption bears the burden of showing some significant interest that outweighs the presumption. *Id.* at 575. Ultimately the decision to seal is a matter best left to the sound

discretion of the district court. *Washington Post*, 386 F.3d at 575. With respect to medical records in particular, the Eastern District of Virginia has previously held that such records are entitled to privacy protection and may be filed under seal. *James v. Service Source, Inc.*, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 86169 at *12 (Nov. 21, 2007 E.D. Va.).

Finally, sealing, as opposed to redaction, is necessary to protect the confidential information contained throughout the entirety of the Exhibit, there is no readability available way to redact this information without revealing confidential information. As such the entirety of Exhibit 1 ought to be placed under seal.

III. CONCLUSION

Defendant respectfully requests that the Court enter an Order permitting Exhibit 1 to Defendant's Status Update be filed under seal.

Respectfully submitted,

ZACKARY ELLIS SANDERS
By Counsel

/s/

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Counsel for Defendant Zackary Ellis Sanders

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 20th day of May 2021, the foregoing was served electronically on counsel of record through the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia Electronic Document Filing System (ECF) and the document is available on the ECF system.

/s/

Nina Ginsberg